



DECEMBER 2015

The Bay Leaf

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY + EAST BAY CHAPTER
ALAMEDA & CONTRA COSTA COUNTIES

WWW.EBCNPS.ORG

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CNPS - Built on Members

As CNPS celebrates its fiftieth anniversary, we can reflect with satisfaction on our many accomplishments. All of them rest squarely on the efforts of our volunteers.

Why do people invest their time and resources in a volunteer organization like CNPS? I think it's for three reasons—they believe in the purpose of CNPS as an advocate of native plants; they receive satisfaction from involvement with the community of like-minded people and enjoy the activities and people; and have opportunities to learn new skills.

This newsletter describes some of our chapter activities, and identifies areas where you can participate, learn, have fun, gain satisfaction, and enjoy a community of people who care about native plants. Whether it's a one-time field trip, being part of a regular team at Native Here Nursery, joining in restoration work, joining our membership meetings, or helping out at occasional outreach events, we welcome you to take these opportunities.

MEMBERS' MEETINGS

Are you interested in learning about native plants and nature in general? Watching beautiful slide shows? Meeting like-minded nature-lovers? That's what we do at East Bay CNPS members meetings (open to everyone, member or not), and we invite you to join us! Recent presentation topics have included "California's Wild Lichens" (Stephen Sharnoff), "A Tale of Two City Butterflies" (Liam O'Brien), "Coping with Invasive Pathogens in the Nursery, the Garden, and the Wild" (Theo Fitanides), "Plants and Landscapes of the West" (Ted Kipping), "Native Hedgerows for Wildlife Habitat" (Pete Veilleux), and the inspiring environmental film "Rebels with a Cause."

Our meetings take place at 7:30 pm on the fourth Wednesday evening of the month in January-May and September-November (our November meeting is often held on the third Wednesday to avoid Thanksgiving week). We usually meet at the Orinda Library, which is near Hwy 24 and walking distance from the Orinda BART station. Everyone is welcome, and the meetings are free.

See the articles that follow to find out more about where your talents can find new outlets.

In addition to listings elsewhere in this issue of the *Bay Leaf*, opportunities come up throughout the year. You might be just the person to make a difference—to help school groups learn about native plants, to speak up for native plant protection at city council meetings, to serve on advisory boards as a liaison with CNPS, to write letters on behalf of native plant protection. If you have computer or social media skills, we need this expertise! If you just like to get outdoors and help with a crew, we have restoration projects and sheet mulching projects.

You might be surprised how much of an impact you can make! Please let me know if you have an interest you would like to pursue or skill or time to offer. Thank you,

Barbara Leitner, President East Bay California Native Plant Society

Check the online *Bay Leaf* newsletter (ebcnps.org/newsletter) or the Meetings page of the East Bay CNPS website (ebcnps.org/meetings) for announcements of future meetings. You can also sign up on the website home page to receive notifications via email ("Sign Up for EBCNPS News").

December 2015: No meeting (happy holidays!)

Wednesday, January 27, 2016, 7:30 pm
Members' Photo Night!

Location: Garden Room, Orinda Public Library

Our first members' photo night brought in gorgeous and fascinating photos of plants and landscapes, insect behavior, field trips, and restoration projects. Come to share your images or just to enjoy those that others bring, along with tasty refreshments (nonmembers are most welcome to present and/or enjoy). Contact Sue Rosenthal at sr0433@yahoo.com or 510-496-6016 by January 20 if you'll be bringing images or if you have questions about the format.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT (1)

Conserving beautiful native flora - 2015 Chapter Conservation Committee update

Five years ago the Chapter published a document on the places in our area with significant rare plants and diverse plant communities. The Chapter's *Guidebook to Botanical Priority Protection Areas of the East Bay* maps and describes 15 distinct and beautiful natural areas in Contra Costa and Alameda counties that deserve protection. Heath Bartosh, Lech Naumovich, and Laura Baker assembled this important document with contributions by guest authors for each Botanical Priority Protection Area ("BPPA").

These botanical protection areas are the focus of the Chapter's conservation work. Many were proposed for big development projects in 2015. We advocated for plant protection thanks to your funding of the Chapter's Conservation Analyst staff position and membership support. (Note: See the Chapter website at ebcnps.org, and on the conservation blog ebcnps.wordpress.com for more information, including a link to "Botanical Priority Protection Areas of the East Bay".

A Tesla Park-Coral Hollow "BPPA" - Eastern Alameda Co. State Parks' Off Highway Recreation Division is looking to expand off-highway motor vehicle recreation (OHMVR) alongside 3,000 acres in Corral Hollow Canyon south of Livermore. The parcels of land purchased for this expanded dirt bike and 4 wheel drive access are called the Tesla and Alameda properties, (nicknamed "Tesla"), and the land is adjacent to the existing Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA).

The State released a General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIR) this summer and CNPS submitted comments. Baseline environmental information supplied by State Parks was scant and outdated, however earlier studies indicate the Tesla-Alameda site supports 28 locally rare plant species (with an "A" rank). Some flaws in the environmental document (the draft EIR), were that it did not consider TESLA's importance as a migratory corridor for plants and animals, nor did the document consider a non-OHV alternative for the land.

On a visit to the property in the spring of 2013 - and in the midst of a drought- East Bay CNPS members and volunteer botanists witnessed stunning wildflowers blanketing a large upper plateau area, just one small segment of the property. This land is clearly a rich botanical treasure trove, as well as a natural wonder. East Bay CNPS, along with our key partner in this endeavor, Friends of Tesla Park (FoTP) are working steadily towards preservation. State Parks Off Highway Division is, however, a well-funded and formidable bureaucracy, so much challenging work remains to be done.

Our Chapter is requesting that the DEIR be revised and recirculated for public review with the entire expansion area

designated as a permanent preserve area with No OHV use allowed. The Alameda Board of Supervisors and Livermore City Council also voted to support preservation of Tesla.

Release of the Final EIR is anticipated soon. At that point, a fresh round of advocacy work will occur, in order to protect the natural resources of this area.

For more information, including how to donate to the fund administered by Friends of Tesla Park (FoTP), please see www.teslapark.org

Open Space for Dublin's Doolan Canyon - East Alameda and Tassajara "BPPA" - Eastern Alameda

Several environmental organizations, including East Bay CNPS, supported the Dublin City Council's vote in 2014 to create a permanent urban limit line protecting Doolan and Collier Canyons at the City's existing eastern edge. However, helped by a \$150,000 campaign funded by Danville-based developer Pacific Union Land Company (*Contra Costa Times*, 11/4/14), a competing Measure T to allow development outside of Dublin's Urban Limit Line went on the ballot last November. Dublin voters made their voices heard by defeating Measure T in a landslide of more than 4 to 1.

Doolan Canyon makes up a central portion of our East Dublin and Tassajara BPPA. It is recognized for priority protection due to its alkaline soils. These are dominated by one of the last remaining matrices of grasslands and vernal pools that once characterized the greater Livermore Valley. The open undeveloped lands of Doolan Canyon are prime nesting and fledging habitat for Golden Eagles. The updrafts created by canyon topography are ideal places for eagles to learn to fly. However, eagles are extremely sensitive to human activities, and need places that are mostly undisturbed by people.

Concord Naval Weapons Station "BPPA" - A quiet expanse in Central Contra Costa

The former Concord Naval Weapons Station supports extensive valley grassland connecting an intact mosaic of saline bayland habitats with uplands that extend into the summits of Mt. Diablo. Guest author for this BPPA, Dianne Lake, notes that "the least surveyed habitat on this site may be the vernal pools and swales that dot the landscape....these features are spread through the site and provide habitat for some of the most fleeting of our East Bay plants." The reuse plan adopted in 2012 would transfer 1,400 acres to the city of Concord and 2,700 acres to the East Bay Regional Park District. Currently, a controversy surrounds the selection of a master developer for the approximately 3.5 square miles of land planned for housing, office buildings and commercial space, (*Oakland Tribune*, 10/20/15). CNPS will continue to follow the open space planning for the former base.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT (2)

Vegetation Fuels Management - Sobrante Ridge "BPPA", Regional Parks, and East Bay Hills- Western Contra Costa and Alameda Co's.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is funding \$4.5 million for a pro-active fire prevention program for Oakland, U.C. Berkeley, and the East Bay Regional Parks District (EBRPD). The project would manage big Blue Gum eucalyptus and Monterey Pine stands that have historically been subject to tree top crown fires fanned by late-summer westerly "Diablo Winds."

FEMA is primarily endorsing partial removal of blue gum eucalyptus trees adjacent to neighborhoods. Under this approach, lower-statured California live oak, bay, toyon, and other local native vegetation found within the eucalyptus understory would be cut down. This approach requires perpetual and costly removal of returning Blue Gum saplings and the continually shedding, fuel-rich debris.

CNPS supports the Sierra Club's and Claremont Canyon Conservancy's approach of "Remove and Restore" as an ecologically and fiscally sustainable model for fuels management that not only reduces the risk of fires, but also promotes diverse and healthy ecosystems. U.C. Berkeley has already successfully demonstrated "Remove and Restore" in Berkeley's Claremont Canyon. Hazardous ridgeline and other targeted blue gum stands are removed. oak, bay, willow, toyon, coyote bush and native grasses can then fill in to return lower-height native plant communities to the site, allowing for diverse and healthy ecosystems.

CNPS has been particularly concerned with how EBRPD will be treating large stands of native shrubs as part of this fuel reduction program. We will be monitoring the protection of the native flora during this fire hazard reduction process.

Zoo development in Knowland Park- South Hills "BPPA" - Alameda County

Many of you attended the Oakland City Council meeting last November to protest taking an additional 22 acres of Knowland Park for the Oakland Zoo's "California Exhibit." Council members Dan Kalb and Rebecca Kaplan voted against the proposal, but a Council majority ok'd giving away more City parkland.

This spring, the Zoo submitted a proposal to the City to cut down 48 heritage California Live Oaks in the park highlands, as well as increase the number of "protected trees" they could build right next to (within 10'). CNPS joined in appealing additional native tree damage that would occur in the building of the project. A hearing officer chosen by the City denied the appeal and approved the Zoo plan. Then, late this summer the members of the EBZS Board approved proceeding with the "California exhibit" even though there was only enough funds to build a big

ridgeline restaurant, a multi-million dollar gondola, and the Stephen Bechtel, Jr. California Interpretive Center. At this zoo board meeting, a letter signed by Save Knowland Park, CNPS, CNGA, S.F. Chapter of the Sierra Club, California Wildlife Foundation-California Oaks, and Defense of Place was delivered to their Board again citing the lack of financial and environmental common sense for building on the park ridgeline.

Late this summer when the Zoo began erecting a chain link exclusion fence, Save Knowland Park volunteers noted what seemed like excessive construction vehicle damage to the Alameda Striped Racer habitat and native grassland in public parkland that will remain freely accessible. A check of the Zoo's permits with California Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the City of Oakland indicated that numerous permit conditions were being violated. There is still extraordinary parkland rich in native species that will not be subject to this development scheme. For remaining heritage beauty and flora of Knowland Park to be retained, these environmental permit "conditions of approval" need to be complied with.

Pt. Molate and U.C. Global Campus - Richmond Shoreline "BPPA" - West Contra Costa

Pt. Molate is nearing final clean up from past Naval Fuel Depot soil contamination. As the casino developer's lawsuit was recently settled, the City can move ahead with other options for this unique place. The Chapter's interest is to retain the natural diversity and beauty of this historically and biologically significant site. Over the years many CNPS members have become aware of the unique history and rare coastal prairie native grassland at Pt. Molate. Recently, the City commissioned an economic study that suggested specific ideas such as a hotel and conference center, restaurant, watercraft rentals, camping, and one or more wineries as revenue-generating projects. Concurrently, planning is underway for a Bay Trail extension winding along the scenic bay edge with East Bay Regional Parks funding (scheduled for opening in late 2017). Meanwhile, the native coastal prairie grasses found at the beach park are getting a helping hand from volunteers, and the invasive weed problem is being brought to the City's attention.

At the planned U.C. Global Campus located at the current Richmond Field Station south of I-580, we have met staff responsible for the coastal prairie. Over the years, invasive harding grass (*Phalaris aquatica*) has been steadily degrading the largest section of native coastal prairie.

CNPS will work to preserve the natural diversity of these unique sites as planning discussions are underway.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT (3)

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CNPS will work to preserve the natural diversity of these unique sites as planning discussions are underway.

Effective Chapter advocacy for native flora in our two county portion of the Bay Area is possible with member support for our Conservation Analyst position. This year, Conservation Analyst Mack Casterman advanced to a new career opportunity, and we wish him much success. As our Conservation Analyst for close to 4 years, his skilled analysis,

writing, speaking, and networking was well represented in each of the Chapter's botanical protection areas highlighted above. The Chapter will soon be conducting interviews for new candidates for this position. If the beauty and botanical richness of favorite places in Contra Costa and Alameda counties is to remain, ongoing advocacy is essential. Please invest in local conservation. Return a generous contribution to the Conservation Analyst fund today. Thank you.

Jean Robertson, East Bay Chapter Conservation Committee Chair

Jim Hanson, member, East Bay Chapter Conservation Committee



Suisun marsh aster (*Symphyotrichum lentum*) at Pt. Molate. Photo by Lech Naumovich.

Suisun marsh aster, *Symphyotrichum lentum*, a dicot, is a perennial herb (rhizomatous) that is native to California and is endemic (limited) to California.

It is included in the CNPS *Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants* on list 1B.2 (rare, threatened, or endangered in CA and elsewhere). 7th Edition / 8th Edition Caption from Calflora.org

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT (4)



Tesla Grasslands. Photo by Lech Naumovich.



Point Molate Headlands. Photo by Jim Hanson.

NATIVE HERE NURSERY

Inviting the Wild Back Into Our Lives

With the spread of invasive and introduced plants from around the world we can lose a sense of what it feels like to be right here on this planet, and with it that special connection we can cultivate with the land around us. Even as gardeners we can find ourselves getting swept up in the hype around particular cultivars or species that “we have to have” because we read about it online or in a magazine or on social media. What makes one place unique is too easily lost, especially when natural areas rich with biodiversity are allowed to be infiltrated with invasive plants, or even worse, bulldozed, developed, and re-landscaped with bland, genetically identical landscape stock that was produced en-masse.

What can we do to flow against this tide of conformist culture, and reclaim our connection to this land, here? Through observation and participation we can allow ourselves to become rewoven into the fabric of this ecosystem, and perhaps from this place we can find small or large ways to restore balance. Go visit one of our many beautiful regional parks (perhaps on a guided hike with East Bay CNPS) and take some time to observe and use your senses to experience what it is like to be right here, in the East Bay. What does a California bay laurel forest smell like after the rain? What do the oak woodlands look like in the spring, in autumn, or in the dead of winter? What does the redwood forest feel like at dawn? What does the salt marsh sound like at sunset?

Through observation and reconnection we can gain the necessary knowledge to invite the wild back into our living spaces: our yards, schools, and parks. Growing local native plants in your garden is a way of participating in our local landscape and conserving our unique slice of biodiversity and thus our experience of what it feels like to be right here on this planet. For over 20 years, Native Here Nursery has strived to offer the public an opportunity to cultivate a vibrant experience of what makes the East Bay a special place, namely the native flora. Native Here is unique in that it exclusively grows plants from seeds and cuttings collected from native plants located here in the East Bay. Native Here is dedicated to the mission of preserving a sense of place by participating as weavers in the rapidly dismantling web of life, which is so dependent on the balance of a particular cohort of interdependent plants, animals, and fungi, and thereby assisting this special part of the world to persist and thrive. We encourage you to join us and invite the wild back into your life!

You may be asking how can I get involved with Native Here? Consider including us in your year-end charitable donations,

and perhaps contribute as an “angel donor” for one of our projects, such as dearly needed tree work (\$800) or creating interpretive signage on site (\$450).

We also have many volunteer and internship opportunities available year round for both the experienced to contribute their unique skills and for newcomers to the plant world to help out and learn new skills along the way. On any given day you can participate in potting up plants, starting seeds, pruning, watering, or any other activity involved in producing native plants.

Email Selena at srowan@cnps.org for more information about volunteering.

December 1st will mark the day when we will be increasing prices in the nursery for the first time since 2008. Unfortunately costs for materials have increased and so must our prices. Thank you so much for your continued support.

On Saturday, December 12th from 10 am-2 pm come up to the nursery to learn about our local medicinal plants. Selena will be showing her new signage highlighting some of our native medicinal plants, and will be offering casual tours of our medicinal offerings as well as vending some of her handcrafted salves featuring local native medicinal plants.

Looking into 2016 mark your calendars as we will be offering a Valentine’s Weekend Sale, Saturday February 13th and Sunday February 14th, with the nursery open 10 am-2 pm both days.

CNPS members will be allowed special early entry at 9 am on Saturday, which will be a great opportunity to get first pick of our new crop of manzanitas, milkweed, early annuals, iris, and more! Early February is one of the best times to get almost anything planted before the rains end, so we hope to see you and your friends at the sale.

We’ll continue to be open and offering plants throughout the winter and year round for our normal hours: Tuesdays (noon – 3 pm), Fridays (9 am–noon), and Saturdays (10 am – 2 pm). See you at the nursery!

Warm wishes to you and your family this holiday season as we welcome back the light!

Selena Rowan
Manager, Native Here Nursery
srowan@cnps.org

RARE PLANT COMMITTEE

According to the *CNPS Rare and Endangered Plant Inventory*, 130 plant taxa have been recorded from the East Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (EBCNPS) either now or historically. Our rare plant committee is actively developing current, accurate information on the distribution, ecology, and conservation status of the East Bay's rare and endangered plants. Most often this information is used to advocate for better protection for our most precious botanical resources. Currently we have much to share in this endeavor regarding the Adopt-A-Rare Plant Program, Livermore tarplant (*Deinandra bicagalupii*), and Lime Ridge woolly star (*Eriastrum ertterae*).

We continue to have amazingly dedicated volunteers participate in the Adopt-A-Rare Plant Program. This year our shining stars are Janet Barton, who has adopted Diablo helianthella (*Helianthella castanea*), and Judy Schwartz, adopter of pallid manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pallida*). The Rare Plant Committee heartfully and thankfully recognizes their diligence in visiting populations of these plants, collecting current data, and collaborating with relevant land managers. Thank you both very much! If you are interested in adopting a plant, or multiple plants, for the 2016 field season please contact the rare plant committee chair Heath Bartosh hbartosh@nomadecology.com. Adoptees are starting to get claimed.

In August 2014, the committee submitted a petition to list the Livermore tarplant as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act because of serious threats it faces throughout its narrow distributional range, which is only

three populations in eastern Livermore Valley. It can take up to two years to complete the listing process. On April 9, 2015 the Fish and Game Commission meeting provided an opportunity to testify before the commissioners prior to them voting on whether listing was warranted. In addition to the EBCNPS Rare Plant Chair, representatives of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS), with whom he had worked closely during petition preparation, spoke in support of the Livermore tarplant. In front of nearly 200 attendees the commissioners surprised themselves by voting unanimously to accept the petition for consideration. On that day the Livermore tarplant officially became a candidate species! From this point it may take up to a year and a half for a final decision to be made on whether to list the Livermore tarplant as endangered under CESA. We'll keep you posted.

Last spring population data was collected for the Lime Ridge woolly star, a species new to science in 2013 and named for our beloved Barbara Ertter. It grows in the Lime Ridge Open Space of Walnut Creek. This data collection was a first step to Endangered Species Act petition preparation. In 2016 we should see a petition for this species go through the internal CNPS petition review process.

Heath Bartosh
Rare Plant Committee Chair
EBCNPS
hbartosh@nomadecology.com

FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, January 3, 2016, 2:00 pm, field trip to Huddart County Park to see Fetid Adder's Tongue

Location: Huddart County Park, 1100 Kings Mountain Road, Woodside (San Mateo County) California

Meet in the parking lot just past the pay station. David Margolies (510-393-1858 cell, divaricatum@gmail.com) will lead a hike on the Crystal Springs Trail where fetid adder's tongue (*Scoliopus bigelovii*, Liliaceae) usually blooms in early January. (In most locations outside botanical gardens it blooms in late

January or early February. We have seen it here every year except 2013.) This is a gentle trail, losing about 200 feet over about 1/2 mile to the creek. We will walk to the creek and then return the same way. It is unlikely that there will be any other flowers out this early, but the fetid adder's tongue's presence tells us that the new flower season has started. (Other plants out of flower will also be identified.) The area is second growth redwood and mixed evergreen forest.

David Margolies

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Outreach Activities

In addition to our traditional invitations like EBRPD's Sunol and Coyote Hills wildflower festivals and Oakland's earth day celebration, and our participation in the Solano Stroll, this year we were asked to participate in several events focused on the drought and native plant gardening. We tabled at events in Pleasant Hill and San Leandro put on by allied groups. I gave talks on native plant gardening at

the Dublin and Castro Valley libraries. Our most unusual invitation was to speak to residents of the Sisters of Mercy retirement home in Oakland; they were redoing their grounds and wanted the new design to be environmentally friendly. Those nuns may have retired, but they hadn't stopped caring for the earth.

Lesley Hunt

2016 CONSERVATION ANALYST APPEAL

The Conservation Analyst Fund supports a half-time professional Conservation Analyst and the Conservation Committee. The Conservation Analyst assists the chapter's Conservation Committee by reviewing Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs), attending planning meetings, writing letters to agencies, making site visits and much more. Most of the fund will be salary and benefits for our future hire, as our former analyst, Mack Casterman, has accepted a full time job. Funds may also be used to support the all volunteer Conservation Committee to attend workshops and conferences.

At the moment the fund stands at \$19,478 — almost half-way to our goal of \$40,000! We rely on members and friends to donate to the fund, which has successfully supported three half-time professionals over the last ten years.

John Alcorn
Carl Anderson
Elly Bade
Laura Baker and Lewis Lubin
Bruce Baldwin
Joy Barnitz and Douglas Stinson
Leslie Bartholic and Jacob Van Akkereno
David Bigham and Howard Arendtson
Terry Blair
Chris Boczanowski
Patricia Boyland
Barbara and Robert Brandriff
Carroll Brentano
Margaret Brostrom
Dore Brown
Bob Case
Albert Chung
Jean Cinciello
Patricia Coffey
Carol and Robert Coon
Nancy Crane
Elizabeth Crews
Margot Cunningham
Mary Frances Dahlquist
Charli and John Danielsen
Elizabeth Davidson
William Davis
Sally de Becker
Adrienne Debisschop
Mark Detterman
John Doyen
Sue Duckles
Marsha Feinland
Ron Felzer
Theo Fitanides
Gerald Ford and Holly Forbes
Norman Frank
Gordon and Jutta Frankie
Sara and Jean Gabriel
Toby Gidal
Greenberg Family Trust

It is easy to donate using PayPal on the chapter website (www.ebcnps.org) or you may write a check to "CNPS", and mail it to the chapter's address: EBCNPS, P.O. Box 5597, Elmwood Station, Berkeley CA 94705. All donations are tax-deductible.

It is wonderful to see so many familiar names among the donors who have given generously and repeatedly over the past 10 years. We wish to thank all of you who have contributed so far!

Delia Taylor
Funds Development Chair

Clara Gerdes
Marilyn and Amos Goldhaber
Jim Hanson
Christie and John Hastings
Miao He
Kristen Hopper
Carole Howard
Russell Huddleston
Lesley and Bill Hunt
Jean Jackson
Phil Johnson
Robert Jolda
Glenn Keator
Jane and Tom Kelly
John Kenny
Arti Kirch and Cindy Siegel
Gudrun Kleist
Kathy Kramer
Christopher Kroll
Arvind Kumar
Watson Laetsch
Carol Lane
Eve Lednický
Barbara and Philip Leitner
David and Evelyne Lennette
Ed Leong
Patricia Litton and Peter Ralston
David Loeb
Cinda MacKinnon
Matthew Madison
Sandy McCoy and Natasha Beery
Shirley McPheeters
Nicholas Mealy
Jamie Menasco
Jon Merkle
Louise Miller
Lynn and Eric Miller
Mary Millman
Gregory Moore
Sandra Morey aka Farrell
Caroline Moyer

Lech Naumovich
Linda Newton
Charles and Anne Olsen
Roberta O'Grady
Elizabeth O'Shea
Kate Owings
Lisa and Andrew Paterson
Anita Pearson
Ellen Peterson
Jean Robertson
Brenda Senturia
David Smith and Theresa Blair
Jennifer Smith
Elizabeth Sojourner
Penny Spear

Martha Staskawicz
Michael Strandberg
Emile Strauss
Aaron Sunshine
Delia and John Taylor
Laurie Umeh
Liz Varnhagen
Stephen Walsh and Brenda Buxton
Phoebe Watts
Cecile Weaver
Shirley White
Christina Wistrom
Elaine Worthington-Jackson
Leslie Zander
Roberta Zorzynski

CHAPTER COUNCIL MEETING

Four times a year, members of CNPS across the state come together. We gather in various beautiful rustic locations from high and low deserts to rugged coast, to mountains and flood plains. We share information, strategize about issues, work together towards the goals of native plant and eco-system protection and education. Any member can attend; visitors are welcome. Field trips are always part of the mix. This upcoming Chapter Council Meeting (where representatives from each chapter collectively attend to the business of our organization), is happening early December, in our own Bay Area, hosted by the Santa Clara Valley Chapter

December 4-6, 2015 - CNPS Chapter Council Meeting in San Carlos Civic Garden Club (Casa de Flores) 737 Walnut St., Sam Carlos CA 94070

<https://sites.google.com/site/cnpschaptercouncildec2015/>
One important issue on the agenda is to discuss and possibly finalize a recently created working draft of our new **Strategic Plan**, which is the guiding document for CNPS, statewide.

Another key issue is the problem of *Phytophthora* infecting native plant stock. There will be a workshop on this topic for non delegates, concurrent with the council session: **Phytophthoras and CNPS native plant sales- a workshop for CNPS chapter plant sale growers.**

MEDICINAL PLANT TOURS AND BOTANICAL ART

Medicinal Plant Tours and Botanical Art & Herbal Crafts Sale
Saturday December 12th from 10 am-2 pm

Join us at the nursery for casual tours of our medicinal plant offerings and learn about the medicinal uses of our East Bay native plants with Native Here Nursery Manager Selena Rowan, who has also trained extensively as a traditional herbalist. Hot herbal tea featuring local native herbs will be available to sample.

In other news, our state office of CNPS is looking to hire an **Associate Director**, to work closely with Executive Director, Dan Glusenkamp.

Here is a snapshot of the **CNPS Associate Director Job Announcement**. For full details, refer to: <http://CNPS.org>. **Job Summary:** The Associate Director (AD) is a new leadership position. Under the direction of the Executive Director, the AD manages and enhances internal organization processes and infrastructure to ensure smooth and seamless operations that support CNPS's ability to fulfill its mission. In the absence of the Executive Director, the AD assumes responsibility for directing the day to day operations of CNPS. The AD provides key strategic leadership to the Executive Director (ED) by advising on issues of significant organizational importance and long-term sustainability. The AD is responsible for overseeing and monitoring financial practices, leading the budgeting process, managing human resources, and providing oversight of facilities and IT infrastructure. They will have broad latitude to shape this growing organization, including defining strategy and scoping/hiring new positions to help fulfill these important responsibilities.

Local graphic designer Anne Marie Praetzel will be offering her beautiful calendars featuring watercolors of California native plants painted by her grandfather, Ernest Clayton. Check out her webpage at <http://ernestclaytonwildflowers.com/>

Selena will also have her handcrafted herbal healing salves for sale, featuring local native plants. Stay tuned to our Native Here Nursery Facebook page, as other herbal vendors may be added to the lineup.

PT. ISABEL RESTORATION

Pt. Isabel volunteers have been having a lot of fun these days during our work parties. The current group of amazing CorePower Yoga teachers-in-training came out to help us on our Adopt-a-Spot and, at lightening speed, pulled out 8 huge plastic bags full of hairy crabgrass that was encroaching on our planted area. We celebrated with yoga poses. It rained the following day and all the rain went to the native plants instead of to the weeds. By chance we found out at the end of that work party that one CorePower member (Paula) turned out to be the daughter of a health care professional from the Shanghai Center for Disease Control that Tom had met in Shanghai in 2003. It is a small world after all. Paula and her husband Adrian will join us at future work parties.

We've gained a new, super skilled four-legged volunteer called Scout who came out with her companion, Ivy, to help us plant two donated black cottonwoods (*Populus balsamifera*) donated by the Watershed Nursery in Richmond. Ivy asked Scout to dig the large holes for the cottonwood trees. She did an amazing job circling around the hole and digging hard and in equal measure to ensure they were even and would accommodate the large trees – in fact we will no longer have

to bring shovels in the future as long as we can get Scout to come out on planting day. She's like a mini backhoe!

Stewards and volunteers continued tackling the large infestation of Algerian lavender along the spit in Hoffman marsh and outside of our restoration area. We've cleaned that entire spot of Russian thistle (*Salsola soda*) and once we've dealt with the lavender, it will be weed free.

Kudos to Greg Hardesty, Shannon Elliott and colleagues from the City of Richmond who did a Herculean job removing all the trash from the area close to the marsh and the Adopt-a-Spot at the corner of Central Avenue and Rydin Road.

Many thanks also to Carpet Contractors, Inc. whose grant allows us to keep all the volunteers fueled with healthy snacks while they restore this beautiful area and keep the marsh clean.

Please don't forget to vote!

Jane and Tom Kelly



Core-Power Yoga. Photo by Jane Kelly.



Scout and Ivy. Photo by Jane Kelly.

RESTORATION PROJECTS

Saturday, December 26, join Friends of Albany Hill for the last Saturday of the month work party, 9:30-11:30 am. Location to be determined. Gloves and tools provided but bring a favorite weeding tool if you like. Wear closed-toed shoes with good traction and clothes that can get dirty. Long pants and long sleeves recommended. We'll work in a light rain, but moderate rain cancels. For more info: friendsalbanyhill@gmail.com.

Margot Cunningham

Join the City of Fremont's Environmental Services at Sabercat Historical Park

We'll be providing DRiWATER (time release water capsules) to many of our native trees and shrubs, and removing aggressive exotic plants from the plant basins of the natives (to give them some freedom from competition). We may also refresh plant basins to encourage water to infiltrate near the

roots of the native plants and possibly create, repair, or expand cages to protect young plants from being browsed by deer before they are large enough to survive much damage. We could remove some cages to let larger plants grow free. We will provide tools, gloves, and water to replenish your refillable containers.

Please click on the link below for more info and to register. For more questions or comments, please contact Sabrina Siebert at sabrina.cityoffremont@gmail.com, or 734-649-3795.

If you'd like to check for additional work days that may be scheduled during the month, please visit: <http://www.eventbrite.ca/o/city-of-fremont-environmental-services-division-6863572027?s=41655479>

Sabrina Siebert

ENCLOSED BROCHURE

The enclosed brochure on “Vegetation Management for Fire safely in the East Bay Hills” was created in a collaboration with the East Bay Chapter of CNPS, the Sierra Club and others. We include it in this issue of the *Bay Leaf*, in the hopes of bringing more understanding and basic information to what has been a controversial topic.

We support the approach outlined in this brochure as it allows for re-establishment of our local native vegetation, as an element of smart fuels management.

Jean Robertson
Conservation Chair, East Bay CNPS

JOIN CNPS

Go to the upper right hand corner of the home page of ebcnps.org and click on **Join/Renew** to join CNPS or renew your membership.

DIRECTORY OF CHAPTER LEADERS

To access the contact information for the leaders of the East Bay Chapter of CNPS click on **Contact Us** in the navigation bar at the top of the pages of the Chapter website, ebcnps.org.